

**Office of State and Local Government
Coordination and Preparedness (DHS/SLGCP)
HSPD-8 Frequently Asked Questions**

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General HSPD-8 Questions

1. What is HSPD-8?

A: Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8 establishes policies of the United States to prevent and respond to threatened or actual domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies by requiring a national domestic all-hazards preparedness goal; establishing mechanisms for improved delivery of Federal preparedness assistance to State and local governments; and outlining actions to strengthen preparedness capabilities of Federal, State, and local entities.

2. What is the purpose of the new HSPD for National Preparedness?

A: HSPD-8 strengthens the preparedness of the United States to prevent and respond to threatened or actual domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. It does so by calling for a national preparedness goal, by establishing policies and mechanisms for improved delivery of Federal preparedness assistance to State and local governments, and by outlining actions to strengthen, exercise, and evaluate preparedness capabilities of Federal, State, and local entities.

3. What is the Department's HSPD-8 responsibility?

A: HSPD-8 assigns the Secretary of Homeland Security as the principal Federal official for coordinating the implementation of all-hazards preparedness in the United States. In cooperation with other Federal departments and agencies, the Secretary coordinates the preparedness of Federal response assets, and the support for, and assessment of, the preparedness of State and local first responders. The Department operates at the direction of and on behalf of the Secretary to fulfill these responsibilities.

4. How does HSPD-8 involve the entire government?

A: To ensure cross-governmental participation, SLGCP has established an HSPD-8 Project Management Team, a Senior Steering Committee, and three Integrated Concept Teams. The Senior Steering Committee and the Integrated Concept teams are comprised of representatives from organizations in Federal departments and agencies and State and local governments with significant roles as providers or recipients of Federal preparedness assistance.

5. How does this Directive benefit the Federal government?

A: The Directive benefits the Federal government in several ways. First, it places responsibility for coordinating Federal preparedness efforts with the Secretary for Homeland Security thereby making clear the lines of responsibility. Next, it calls for development of the national preparedness goal, which will help guide Federal decisions as to appropriate actions to take to improve the Nation's preparedness. The Directive calls for improved allocation, and more effective and coordinated delivery, of Federal preparedness assistance, and establishes mechanisms for coordinating standards and procedures related to preparedness equipment, training, and exercises. It further addresses the preparedness of Federal department and agency incident management and asset preparedness efforts, and directs the Secretary to assess and report on the preparedness of Federal and State capabilities. In its totality, the Directive will support clearer lines of authority, improved interagency cooperation at all levels, better use of Federal assets/resources, and a higher level of Federal preparedness.

6. What is the definition of "first responders"?

A: Please refer to HSPD-8, paragraph 2(d). "The term 'first responder' refers to those individuals who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101), as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel (such as equipment operators) that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations."

7. How does HSPD-8 address some of the concerns raised in reports dealing with the Nation's preparedness efforts?

A: While this Directive was written under our ongoing Homeland Security Council policy development process, it does address some of the issues raised by other organizations. First and foremost, the development of the national preparedness goal will enable us to better define where we are headed in national preparedness and then measure how we are progressing toward this goal. This should, in turn, support development of better budget priorities. The improved allocation approach spelled out in the Directive helps ensure Federal preparedness assistance is going to the areas of greatest need to the extent that can be determined. Creation of a "one-stop-shop" makes it easier for State and local governments to access Federal preparedness program information, and development of a comprehensive statewide strategies and a coordinated application and processing approach should further simplify delivery of preparedness assistance. The total effect of implementation of the policies spelled out by the President in this Directive will be to have the Nation better prepared with more effective use of resources and better support

for State and local first responders who are on the front line in addressing homeland security preparedness.

8. Does the Directive give the Secretary control over other Federal departments and agencies and/or their programs?

A: No, while the Secretary of DHS is recognized as the principal Federal official for coordinating preparedness efforts, the Secretary is given no control over the other Federal departments and agencies. Under the Directive, the Secretary works in cooperation and coordination with the other Federal departments and agencies, and the President directs them to cooperate with the Secretary. But these activities all take place within the context of existing laws and regulations and with recognition that the authorities and responsibilities of the other Federal departments and agencies are not altered or diminished by the issuance of the Directive.

9. Does the National Preparedness HSPD place the Department of Homeland Security in control of State and local officials and/or programs?

A: No, the Directive gives the Secretary of DHS no authority to control State and local officials. The directive does not require any actions by State and local officials beyond what is already authorized under existing laws and regulations. To the contrary, the Directive requires Federal departments and agencies to recognize the State and local role in preparedness and to consult with them in implementation of the Directive's policies.

10. How will this directive affect assistance to State and local governments?

A: Under the policies established by this Directive, the provision of Federal preparedness assistance to state and local governments will be greatly improved. First, a single point of access to information about Federal preparedness assistance will be established so State and local officials only have to go to one place to obtain Federal assistance information. In addition, Federal departments and agencies providing preparedness assistance will work together to implement a closely coordinated interagency assistance process that will simplify application and processing requirements for State and local applicants. The Directive also calls for adoption of statewide comprehensive all-hazards preparedness strategies that should be consistent with the national preparedness goal, assess the most effective ways to enhance preparedness, address areas facing high risk, and incorporate local government concerns. By moving toward a single comprehensive strategy that meets Federal preparedness program needs, the Directive moves us closer to the day State and local governments will no longer have to prepare individual plans or strategies for each program.

General SLGCP Questions

11. What is SLGCP's role under HSPD-8?

Consistent with the Department's responsibility, the Secretary named the Director of the Office for Domestic Preparedness to oversee HSPD-8 implementation.

12. How is SLGCP implementing HSPD-8?

A: HSPD-8 identifies 16 requirements for successful implementation. In its role of HSPD-8 oversight, SLGCP has developed an implementation concept which maps the response to these requirements into four inter-related initiatives: (1) Develop a National Preparedness Goal; (2)

Balance the Federal Portfolio of Preparedness Investments; (3) Establish a National Training and Exercise Program; and (4) Develop a National Preparedness Assessment and Reporting System.

13. Will SLGCP be changing its mission now that it is the lead federal agency for implementation of HSPD-8? Does this present a problem for SLGCP to fully implement the all-hazards directive?

A: As a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), SLGCP is not an independent lead Federal agency. The Secretary assigned SLGCP as the executive agent within the Department responsible for leading efforts on his behalf to implement HSPD-8. SLGCP's mission is consistent with HSPD-8. In order to fully implement HSPD-8, SLGCP is coordinating with other DHS components, other Federal departments and agencies, State and local governments, and the private sector, as appropriate.

14. How will SLGCP ensure adequate coordination with and involvement of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate so that when we have a major disaster our response will be effective?

A: The Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate (EP&R) is represented on the HSPD-8 Senior Steering Committee, and each of the three Integrated Concept Teams. HSPD-8 requires development of a system to collect, analyze, and disseminate lessons learned, best practices, and information from exercises, training events, research, and other sources, including actual incidents, and establish procedures to improve national preparedness to prevent, respond to, and recover from major events. That system, which is also referenced in the draft National Response Plan, will be a critical mechanism for the Department, including SLGCP and EP&R, to ensure continuous improvement in our national response capabilities.

15. You mention that in March DHS developed a strategy for a better prepared America based on the requirements of HSPD-8, has adopted an integrated governmental structure to implement HSPD-8, and set out an aggressive timeline for achieving HSPD-8's goals and objectives. Can you share some more information about these developments and about your progress?

A: Yes. HSPD-8 identifies 16 separate provisions, all of which require all-hazards preparedness (see HSPD-8 Fact Sheet). HSPD-8 defines all-hazards preparedness as preparedness for domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. To implement those provisions, SLGCP and the Department's Headquarters Operational Integration Staff outlined four major initiatives:

- *A national preparedness strategy* to define a national preparedness goal and how to achieve it.
- *A balanced investments* initiative to develop strategies to enhance preparedness and base resource allocations on assessments of risk factors.
- *A national training and exercise system* to evaluate and strengthen performance.
- *A national preparedness assessment and reporting system* to measure the nation's overall preparedness with a combination of self-, assisted-, peer-, and national- assessment tools.

SLGCP is convening a Senior Steering Committee to provide input and direction to the national preparedness strategy and the overall effort. The Senior Steering Committee is an executive-

level (Assistant Secretary) body established by the Secretary, in coordination with the Homeland Security Council. SLGCP Director Mencer serves as the Chair, along with Members from other organizations in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), other Federal departments and agencies, and State and local governments. SLGCP is also convening three Integrated Concept Teams (ICTs) (one each for the balanced investments initiative, national training and exercise system, and national preparedness assessment and reporting system) to develop detailed program plans and requirements documents, obtain necessary approvals, and then turn over the materials to a program office or offices for implementation. Members of these ICTs include program managers and subject matter experts from organizations within DHS, other Federal departments and agencies, and State and local governments with significant roles as providers or recipients of Federal preparedness assistance in each respective area.

SLGCP has developed a fact sheet that outlines the requirements of HSPD-8 and a major milestones chart. Those items are enclosed.

16. The state homeland security strategy presently required by SLGCP has a WMD/Terrorism emphasis. When will the department be requiring an all-hazards strategy pursuant to the provisions of HSPD-8?

A: As required in HSPD-8, adoption of approved Statewide strategies will be a requirement for receiving Federal preparedness assistance at all levels of government by September 30, 2005. SLGCP will issue guidance to update the requirement for state homeland security strategies to address all-hazards. Updates will occur in Fiscal Year 2005 in order for strategies to be approved and adopted in time for funding decisions for Federal preparedness assistance for Fiscal Year 2006.

17. By December 31, SLGCP will complete the Federal Response Capability Inventory. When will States and local complete their existing capability inventories?

A: The Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate is completing the Federal Response Capability Inventory. State and local jurisdictions have inventories of existing capabilities and resources. They will be expected to update and compare those inventories to the Baseline Capabilities Lists for the appropriate Tier, in order to develop their Required Capabilities Lists in Fiscal Year 2005. SLGCP will provide national guidance to the States and Urban Area Security Initiative Cities with the national planning scenarios, Target Capabilities Lists, organized by Tier, and metrics, after the President reviews and approves the National Preparedness Goal. HSPD-8 paragraph 7 requires the Department to submit the Goal to the President through the Homeland Security Council for review and approval prior to, or concurrently with, the Department's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget.

All-Hazards Preparedness Questions

18. HSPD-8 talks about all-hazards. Is HSPD-8 focused on all-hazards and terrorism?

A: HSPD-8 specifically defines all-hazards preparedness as preparedness for terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

19. What Is SLGCP doing to implement the provisions of HSPD-8 that require all-hazards preparedness?

A: HSPD-8 identifies 16 separate provisions, all of which require all-hazards preparedness (see HSPD-8 Fact Sheet). HSPD-8 defines all-hazards preparedness as preparedness for domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. To implement those provisions, SLGCP and the Department's Headquarters Operational Integration Staff outlined four major initiatives:

- *A unified national preparedness strategy* to define a national preparedness goal and how to achieve it.
- *A balanced investments* initiative to develop strategies to enhance preparedness and base resource allocations on assessments of risk factors.
- *A national training and exercise system* to evaluate and strengthen performance.
- *A national preparedness assessment and reporting system* to measure the nation's overall preparedness with a combination of self-, assisted-, peer-, and national- assessment tools.

SLGCP is convening a Senior Steering Committee to provide input and direction to the national preparedness strategy and the overall effort. The Senior Steering Committee is an executive-level (Assistant Secretary) body established by the Secretary, in coordination with the Homeland Security Council. SLGCP Director Mencer serves as the Chair, along with Members from other organizations in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), other Federal departments and agencies, and State and local governments. SLGCP is also convening three Integrated Concept Teams (ICTs) (one each for the balanced investments initiative, national training and exercise system, and national preparedness assessment and reporting system) to develop detailed program plans and requirements documents, obtain necessary approvals, and then turn over the materials to a program office or offices for implementation. Members of these ICTs include program managers and subject matter experts from organizations within DHS, other Federal departments and agencies, and State and local governments with significant roles as providers or recipients of Federal preparedness assistance in each respective area.

20. How is SLGCP's mission, which according to your testimony, is "to be the primary federal agency responsible for the preparedness of the United States for acts of terrorism" consistent with the mission requirements of HSPD-8, which requires all-hazards preparedness?

A: SLGCP's statutory mission as defined in the Homeland Security Act of 2002, section 430, does state that SLGCP is the primary Federal agency responsible for the preparedness of the United States for acts of terrorism. The Secretary assigned SLGCP as the executive agent within the Department responsible for leading efforts on his behalf to implement HSPD-8. HSPD-8 defines all-hazards preparedness as preparedness for domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. Many provisions emphasize terrorism: paragraph 5b (...*ensure first responders are prepared to respond to major events, especially prevention of and response to threatened terrorist attacks*); 6 (...*a system for assessing the Nation's overall preparedness to respond to major events, especially those involving acts of terrorism*); 9 (...*strategies should address areas facing higher risk, especially to terrorism*); 10 (...*base allocations on assessments of other significant risk factors, particularly terrorism threats*); and 11 (...*build capacity to address major events, especially terrorism*). The President and the Secretary also assigned SLGCP as the executive agent within the Department responsible for leading efforts on their behalf to coordinate, and consolidate as appropriate, Federal preparedness assistance programs, in accordance with the Homeland Security Act of 2002, section 430, and HSPD-8, paragraph 8.

SLGCP's mission is consistent with HSPD-8. Terrorism preparedness is part of all-hazards preparedness; it is the current national priority defined by the President and Congress. With HSPD-8, we will work with the community to develop an overall approach to analyze, prioritize, and manage risk posed by all hazards and to develop the capabilities that are needed to prevent, respond, and recover to incidents of national significance regardless of cause. SLGCP coordinates with partners who are responsible for leading other preparedness efforts – all of which need be addressed within a single national preparedness system for all hazards.

21. Does the Department plan to implement each and every provision of HSPD-8, which requires the government to pursue an all-hazards preparedness strategy, require that from its grants recipients?

A: Yes, the Department plans to implement all the provisions of HSPD-8 that are assigned to the Department, in coordination with other Federal departments and agencies and in consultation with State and local governments and the private sector, as appropriate. Paragraph 9 states that, to the extent permitted by law, adoption of approved Statewide comprehensive all-hazards preparedness strategies will be a requirement for receiving Federal preparedness assistance at all levels of government by September 30, 2005.

Private Sector Role

22. What is the role of the private sector in HSPD-8?

A: The private sector is called out specifically in HSPD-8, paragraph 14, 22, and 23. We need to address their role in these areas (equipment standards, citizen participation, and public communications) at a minimum, and address their role where appropriate elsewhere, as time and scope permits.

A: We intend to obtain private sector review and input on drafts as part of the nation-wide review process (through the Homeland Security Advisory Council). Please note that Federal, State, and local governments are the focus of the programs, systems, and processes we are charged to develop under HSPD-8. We look to government organizations that coordinate with the private sector to help us define the private sector role as it applies to national preparedness. Keep in mind that private sector organizations performing roles as government contractors are usually subject to same standards as government entities. Private sector responsibilities in critical infrastructure protection are being addressed separately in HSPD-7. If the Federal Government does not fund preparedness programs (planning, training, equipment, exercises, evaluations, or assessments) to support specific private sector responsibilities – then we do not include them as part of the scope of our task at this time. We should not unwittingly create unfunded mandates.

Integrated Concept Team (ICT) Questions

23. How are we securing State and local participation?

A: State and local membership in the ICTs and Steering Committee was carefully selected from national organizations to balance stakeholder views. Participation was limited to 4 members per ICT and 7 on the Steering Committee - to keep the groups to a manageable size. We (DHS) are

funding travel for those representatives. We are not prepared to add more people at the table. We are committed to nation-wide review of key drafts in the process - through ePMO, targeted conferences for some activities, and other means. The intent is to obtain broad review before final drafts go to the Senior Steering Committee and then DHS Leadership and above. Buy-in is important. We are just looking for the best ways to get it in the time available. Please refer all inquiries from State and local officials desiring to participate to Lisa Weldon or directly to Todd Sharpe in DHS/OSLGC at 202-282-8458.

24. What is the time commitment and approach for the ICTs?

A: As stated in the memorandum signed by Secretary Ridge on April 16, 2004, subject: Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8/HSPD-8 Implementation, and in the HSPD-8 Implementation Concept, Appendix D, ICT Charter, ICTs will meet as needed through September 2004 (i.e., several times per week in full-day or half-day sessions) to develop detailed program implementation plans and requirements documents, obtain necessary approvals, and then turn over the materials to a program office or offices for implementation. The ICT schedule is consistent with that guidance. The Project Leader did respond to requests to adjust the schedule somewhat to deconflict meetings for representatives who serve on more than one ICT, and to prevent State and local officials from having to travel on the weekends. ICTs are meeting more than once a week, as required, to ensure we meet the September deadline.

The ICT Approach involves four phases:

- Validate Team Mission and Approach;
- Conduct Gap Analysis;
- Identify and Select Preferred Implementation Alternative; and
- Create Draft and Final Program Implementation Plan and Requirements.

25. What is being done to ensure adequate coordination among the three ICTs as they develop components of the National Preparedness System?

A: The Project Management Team (PMT) utilizes several methods to promote coordination and collaboration among the three ICTs. On a weekly basis, the PMT and Program Leads gather for a Hotwash to discuss ICT progress and crosscutting issues. The group also reviews selected Module outputs from each ICT to ensure product consistency. Additionally, ICT Program Leads and Facilitators meet as needed with their counterparts from other ICTs to discuss integration points and common issues. For example, the ICTs will collaborate during Module 5 to define complementary system design and functional requirements for the components of the National Preparedness System. ICTs will also collaborate during Modules 6 and 7 to ensure all recommended alternatives are functionally compatible. Moreover, through ePMO, members of each ICT have full visibility into the progress and products of other ICTs. HSPD-8 representatives from a department or agency are encouraged to meet outside of the regular meeting schedule to ensure that their organization's perspective is appropriately represented in the development of the National Preparedness System.

26. What's the Balanced Investments Initiative?

A: The Balanced Investments initiative addresses requirements in HSPD-8 paragraphs 8-16, 20, and 21. These paragraphs address Federal Preparedness Assistance, Equipment, and Federal Department and Agency Preparedness. The objective is to improve the delivery of Federal preparedness assistance and strengthen preparedness capabilities of Federal, State, and local

entities by linking funding to several requirements, such as completion of comprehensive all-hazards preparedness strategies, jurisdictional factors such as population concentration, critical infrastructure, and risk, and compliance with national standards.

National Preparedness Goal

27. What is the National Preparedness Goal?

A: The Directive requires the Secretary of DHS to coordinate with the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies and to consult with State and local governments in the development of a national domestic all-hazards preparedness goal. The goal will identify preparedness priorities and targets that balance the threat and/or risk of terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies with the resources required to prevent, respond to, and recover from them. It will also include metrics as well as standards for preparedness assessments and strategies, and a system for evaluating the Nation's preparedness. The goal will provide us with a "yardstick" to help determine the Nation's state of preparedness and make more informed decisions about how to improve it.

Universal Task List (UTL)

28. Will the 31 July, Universal List of Mission Essential Tasks be identified by individual Tiers at this point, with equipment and everything like that?

A: No. A Universal Task List will define the tasks that are essential to the ability to perform homeland security missions, the organizations that need to perform them, the condition(s) under which they need to be performed (which vary by scenario), and the performance standard(s) for the task. As part of its training strategy, DHS/SLGCP developed Emergency Responder Guidelines that identify the essential tasks that response agencies must perform to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from a threat or act of terrorism, including those involving the use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive (CBRNE) weapons. Performance measures for the essential tasks are being developed for use in evaluating performance through exercises. This approach is readily adaptable to the range of standard scenarios provided by the Homeland Security Council.

The intent is to fast-track efforts currently underway within DHS (SLGCP and EP&R) to develop a Universal List of Mission Essential Tasks, by pulling material from existing sources, filling in gaps, and publishing it in a standard, user-friendly format. The list will be used to establish the Baseline Capabilities Lists, which will be tailored by individual Tier. Baseline Capabilities Lists do not dictate specific resource requirements (i.e., how many pieces of equipment to purchase). Rather, they provide a capability standard that enables a jurisdiction to consider resource options available internally and through mutual aid to meet that requirement. The jurisdiction determines how many resources of what type and kind it needs in order to meet the standard. This promotes flexibility and will enable DHS to compare approaches and identify best practices.

29. Who had input into the development of the Universal Task List (UTL)?

A: The Universal Task List is an ordered, comprehensive, and integrated menu of essential tasks for major events illustrated by the National Planning Scenarios.

The following stakeholder groups had input in the development of the UTL:

- Over 60 associations representing homeland security professionals at the State and local levels;
- State and local governments;
- DHS; and
- Other Federal Departments and Agencies

30. Is the UTL specific to one scenario, or does it apply to all of the scenarios developed under HSPD-8 (i.e. 15 scenarios)?

A: The UTL applies to 14 of the 15 scenarios developed under HSPD-8 by the Homeland Security Council (HSC). (The task list for the cyber scenario will be developed in FY 2005.)

The suite of National Planning Scenarios, developed under the leadership of the Homeland Security Council, define the range of probable threats from terrorists, natural disasters and other emergencies. The Scenarios are designed as planning tools to assist the nation in preparing for any emergency by developing skills and resources that are flexible and coordinated across jurisdictions and levels of government. Version 1 of the Universal Task List was developed to identify the tasks that need to be performed at all levels of government to prevent, respond to, and recover from the incidents defined in the scenarios.

An end-to-end capabilities-based planning prototype is being developed for the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) National Planning Scenario. History has shown that IEDs have a high frequency and probability of occurrence. Beginning with a highly familiar and probable scenario as a prototype will facilitate efforts to address some of the more difficult planning scenarios. The prototype and target capabilities will be reviewed by Federal, State, and local stakeholders at the Capabilities Workshop scheduled for October 12-14, 2004.

Version 1 of the Target Capabilities List will be available by December 31, 2004.

National Planning Scenarios

31. Do the scenarios include pre-event/pre-incident activities (i.e. intelligence gathering, reconnaissance, etc.)? Did the development of the scenarios include a prevention aspect?

A: Yes, the scenarios include pre-event/pre-incident activities. A working group of subject matter experts took the scenarios developed by the HSC and developed a prevention/deterrence component.

Yes, the development of the scenarios included a prevention aspect.

The UTL is organized using four levels that define the types of tasks performed. The four levels include National Strategic Tasks; Planning, Coordination, and Support Tasks; Incident Management Tasks; and Incident Prevention and Response Tasks.

The Incident Management and Incident Prevention and Response task categories correspond to the emergency support functions of the *National Response Plan* and are generally initiated by

and implemented under the direction of local agencies. Prevention has been added to encompass intelligence gathering and surveillance–related tasks associated with terrorism-related events.

Target Capabilities

32. What is the targeted capabilities list?

A: The Target Capabilities List will identify capabilities that provide a means to perform essential tasks to execute the full range of homeland security missions for major events. A capability is a combination of resources needed to perform an essential task.

A capability is the ability to perform a task in response to a defined set of requirements. Capability analysis starts by describing the task that is to be done, and assessing the resources required to accomplish it. Capabilities are comprised of six Elements of Preparedness:

- Guidance: strategies, plans, policies, regulations, and operating procedures that govern or guide preparedness activities;
- Organization: organizations and organizational units needed to conduct a homeland security mission or task;
- Personnel: qualified personnel supporting a homeland security capability, including identification of the knowledge, skills, abilities, and competencies needed to perform a homeland security task;
- Training: training content and all methods of delivering that content to intended audiences, which enable performance and support of homeland security missions and tasks;
- Equipment: materiel, supplies, and facilities used to prepare for, directly perform, or support a homeland security mission; and
- Leadership: management, responsibility and accountability across the spectrum of national preparedness elements.

33. At what point will States and local communities be able to measure their capabilities and determine what they need to do to reach a defined level of preparedness?

A: National Preparedness Guidance will be available in March 2005 that describes the Target Capabilities List and how to compare current capabilities to national targets. State and local stakeholders can start to compare their level of preparedness against the target capabilities list, when the list is available after December 31, 2004. We plan to conduct an assessment of a sample of jurisdictions in FY 2005 and plan to conduct a full assessment of State and local jurisdictions in FY 2006-2007.

Budget/Funding

34. FY 06 funding will be the first grants tied to a jurisdictions ability to meet these baseline capabilities?

A: Correct. As required in HSPD-8 paragraph 7, DHS will submit the National Preparedness Goal to the President through the Homeland Security Council for review and approval prior to, or concurrently with, the Department's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget. The Goal will include standard scenarios, Baseline Capabilities Lists,

organized by Tier, and metrics. In Fiscal Year 2005, jurisdictions will be expected to update and compare their existing capabilities inventories to the National Preparedness Goal, in order to develop their Required Capabilities Lists. SLGCP will provide national planning guidance to support that effort. Fiscal Year 2006 will provide the first opportunity to base Federal preparedness assistance grants on the results of those assessments.

35. How can the work that the Department has currently done be incorporated into the FY 2005 congressional appropriations?

A: All States still have preparedness needs. The UTL and target capabilities list can be used by Federal departments/agencies and the States in FY 2005 to target formula grant allocations to local jurisdictions to build capabilities to perform critical tasks defined by the UTL. The process for subsequent years will be enhanced to enable us to target funds to address specific capability gaps and deficiencies that will be identified through the assessment process.

NIMS Integration Center

36. What is the linkage to the NIMS Integration Center (NIC), for example, on training?

A: The National Incident Management System (NIMS) states that the NIC will "facilitate the definition of general training requirements and the development of national level training standards and course curricula associated with NIMS..." (NIMS, page 60). HSPD-5 requires all Federal departments and agencies to adopt NIMS and use NIMS in their preparedness activities. HSPD-8 requires DHS to develop a comprehensive national training program. DHS will develop a national training program that uses NIMS and incorporates NIMS-related requirements, standards, and curricula -- along with other requirements. The Training and Exercise ICT will design the system; the Senior Steering Committee will approve the design, and a program office or offices will implement it in the outyears. The NIC will provide input to it. Somehow we have to fit everyone's training programs together and figure out everyone's roles and responsibilities within the one system.